

# VISTA Assignment Description (VAD)

<b>AmeriCorps VISTA:</b> Nathaniel Crail	
<b>Member ID:</b> 1540809	<b>Effective Dates:</b> 10/26/2020 - 10/25/2021
<b>Title:</b> Broadband Planning VISTA Member	
<b>Sponsoring Organization:</b> North Central New Mexico Economic Development District <b>Project Name:</b> Northern NM Economic Opportunities VISTA Project <b>Project Number:</b> 18VSWNM001 <b>Project Period:</b> 07/07/2019 - 09/26/2020	
<b>Site Name (if applicable):</b> Santa Fe County	
<b>Focus Area(s)</b> <b>Primary:</b> Capacity Building <b>Secondary:</b>	

## VISTA Assignment Objectives and Member Activities

**Goal of the Project:** Bridging the digital divide between the Internet “haves” and “have-nots” is an essential goal in the fight against poverty. Ensuring the low-income people can access the Internet empowers them with the ability to access distance education and medicine, on-line public information and services, and global technology-oriented employment opportunities. The VISTA Member will help low-income people in Santa Fe County access the Internet by helping to develop a strategic broadband plan that will guide expansion of broadband infrastructure and access to high speed internet for low-income residents throughout the County.

### **Objective of the Assignment** (*Period of Performance: February 3, 2020 – April 17, 2020*)

The VISTA Member assembling of The Member will prepare a White Paper detailing the current broadband landscape and containing data needed to inform a strategic broadband plan for Santa Fe County.

**Member Activity:** Describe broadband technology in a manner that is approachable and can be used for educating the general public and other County stakeholders;

**Member Activity:** Create a broad picture of the current broadband capacity and deficiencies across the County (i.e. speeds, providers, redundancy, cost, etc.);

**Member Activity:** List impediments to broadband expansion in the County (procedural, policy and financial);

**Member Activity:** Research innovative or alternative opportunities and methods for expanding access to high speed internet;

**Member Activity:** Identify funding opportunities for broadband infrastructure;

**Member Activity:** Develop strategic paths for broadband expansion including a list of policy recommendations for facilitating broadband expansion with greater ease.

**Objective of the Assignment** (*Period of Performance: February 3, 2020 – April 17, 2020*)

Time permitting, the VISTA Member would support the ongoing effort of mapping broadband infrastructure throughout the County.

**Member Activity:** Contact public and private entities to collect information about existing broadband resources, plans, and needs from various database resources